

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 1.02(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2004/0163748 A1, Ueyoko. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. A petition to correct inventorship will be filed in the earlier filed case, amending inventorship to be the same as the instant case. Further, amended claim 7 now recites that the strips forming the zigzag belt structure are overlapped substantially throughout the shoulder portion of the tire, which is 25% of the belt width.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 1.02(b) as being anticipated by the following references: US Ueyoko et al. (6,116,311), Japanese Patent Application 2002-211208 A, and by de Loze de Plaisance et al. (6,125,900) when taken with Oswald (4,838,966). Amended claim 7 now recites that the strips forming the zigzag belt structure are overlapped substantially throughout the shoulder portion of the tire, wherein each shoulder portion is 25% of the belt width. While the Japanese reference does teach overlapping of layers at the zigzag belt edge, the reference does not teach nor suggest that the overlapping can occur substantially throughout the shoulder portion. As none of the cited references teach nor suggest the cited claim limitations, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

35 USC § 103

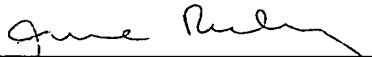
Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Loze de Plaisance et al. (6,125,900) when taken with Oswald (4,838,966) and in view of Ueyoko et al. (6,116,311). Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueyoko et al. (6,116,311) in view of de Loze de Plaisance et al. (6,125,900). Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application 2002-211208 A, in view of de Loze de Plaisance et al. (6,125,900). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons. With respect to amended claim 7, none of the references alone or in combination teach or suggest that the strips forming the zigzag belt structure can be overlapped substantially throughout the shoulder portion of the tire, wherein each shoulder portion is 25% of the belt width.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 8 has been amended.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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